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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
25 January 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Uganda

(Situation as of 1300 EST)

1. After a night of sporadic fighting in the capital city of Kampala, it is now apparent that an army coup, headed by Major General Idi Amin, Uganda's senior military leader, has ousted President Milton Obote. Around mid-day today Radio Uganda began broadcasting statements, allegedly from Amin, that he is responsible for ousting Obote and will head a new government. Obote himself is en route home from the Commonwealth Conference and is expected momentarily in Nairobi.

2. Press reports and the few official communications that have been received thus far indicate that the fighting in Kampala has subsided, but there is almost nothing to indicate what is happening elsewhere in the country. A curfew has been imposed in Kampala. Troops loyal to Amin are reportedly in control of key points in Kampala and Uganda's main airport at nearby Entebbe.

3. According to radiobroadcasts, Amin claims to have acted for a variety of reasons, among which are the desire to rid the country of corrupt officials, to bring about a return to free elections, and to restore public confidence in the government. Amin describes his government as merely a caretaker administration and says he intends to return the government to civilian hands in due course.

4. Circumstances surrounding the takeover are still obscure. It is not clear how solid Amin's position is. According to the radio, the head of the national police, General Oryema, has pledged his

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support and apparently will be a member of the new  
"military government."



5. The extent of Amin's support within the military remains to be seen. The army has been highly undisciplined and shot through with personal and tribal factionalism. Amin has been at odds with other senior officers who lead major tribal factions within the army, and he may have acted with only a relatively small number of loyal officers and men. As a former NCO, Amin has been popular with enlisted men but not with the officer corps. These factors could keep the situation highly unstable for some time.

6. Amin himself has been a controversial figure over the past few years. He has frequently voiced his loyalty to Obote, but their relationship has sometimes been strained. Since September Amin has been nursing grievances against the president, arising largely from a reshuffle of the army high command which reduced Amin's authority. This action may have prompted Amin to begin plotting.